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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-01
	EPA-01	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-13	USIE-00	SP-01
	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/045 W	

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P 040113Z APR 90
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2515
FV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 5403
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

☒ Release () Excise () Deny ☒ Declassify

Date 2/27/62 Exemption _____

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, NU
SUBJECT: FSLN ON REGIONAL MILITARY BALANCE, CONTRA
- DEMOBILIZATION AND FSLN POWER
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1. (U) AT MONTELIBAR, APRIL 2, PRESIDENT DANIEL ORTEGA, DEFENSE MINISTER HUMBERTO ORTEGA AND MAJOR GENERAL CUADRA ALL SPOKE PUBLICLY ON THE THEMES OF REGIONAL DEMILITARIZATION, CONTRA DEMOBILIZATION AND THE CONTINUANCE OF SANDINISTA CONTROL OF THE NICARAGUAN MILITARY.
2. (U) DEFENSE MINISTER ORTEGA GENERALLY SPOKE MORE SPECIFICALLY THAN DID HIS BROTHER ON ALL OF THE ABOVE. INTER ALIA, THE MINISTER NOTED FOR EXAMPLE THAT "THE PRESIDENT-ELECT WILL BE THE ONE TO DETERMINE WHO WILL BE THE HEAD OF THE ARMY."
3. (U) THE DEFENSE MINISTER ALSO SOUNDED A POSITIVE NOTE WITH REGARD TO THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL DEMILITARIZATION

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NOTING, AS DID GENERAL CUADRA THE SAME DAY AT MONTELIBAR, THAT THE SUMMIT LEADERS WERE IN AGREEMENT ABOUT INITIATING DISCUSSIONS ON THE THEME OF A REGIONAL BALANCE OF FORCES -- INCLUDED UNDER POINT SIX OF ESQUIPULAS II. PRESIDENT ORTEGA SIMILARLY NOTED THAT "WE ARE GOING TO INSIST ON GETTING TO WORK ON THE CORRESPONDING COMMISSIONS RELATED TO A REGIONAL BALANCE OF FORCES." IN THIS CONTEXT, HE ADDED HOWEVER, THAT "VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS OF THE AREA" WERE OPPOSED TO "DISMANTLING OF MILITARY BASES WHICH THE U.S. POSSESSES IN THE REGION."

4. (U) LIKE HIS BROTHER WHO ACCUSED THE U.S. OF BEING AMBIGUOUS IN ITS STATEMENTS ABOUT DEMOBILIZATION OF THE

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CONTRAS, HUMBERTO ORTEGA, APRIL 2, CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. HAD "MECHANISMS" TO PRESSURE THE CONTRAS TOWARD DEMOBILIZATION -- "THROUGH MEANS OF FRIENDSHIP AND OLD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CONTRAS AND THE CIA AND STATE DEPARTMENT."

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5. (U) HUMBERTO ADOPTED A MENACING TONE WITH REGARD TO CONTRAS WHO REFUSED TO DISARM CLAIMING THAT THE MILITARY "HAD FORCES PREPARED AT ANY TIME IF THEY DO NOT DISARM." CUADRA, HOWEVER, POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT ORTEGA HAD ORDERED A "REINITIATION OF THE CESSATION OF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS" BECAUSE "IF THE ARMY CARRIES OUT ATTACKS IT WOULD HAMPER THE CONTRAS' DEMOBILIZATION."

6. (C) COMMENT: THE SANDINISTA LEADERSHIP IS OF COURSE PLAYING TO VARIOUS AUDIENCES, POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS ITS OWN RANKS WHO REQUIRE REASSURING (INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE, TOUGH TALK ABOUT RECALCITRANT CONTRAS). AT THE SAME TIME, THE FSLN SEEKS TO MAINTAIN A POSTURE OF HIGH-MINDED REASONABLENESS ON IMPORTANT EMERGING INTERNATIONAL THEMES SUCH AS REGIONAL REDUCTION-BALANCE

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OF MILITARY FORCES. LINKAGE OF REGIONAL REDUCTIONS OF MILITARY FORCES TO U.S. BASES IN THE REGION IS A THEME WHICH THE SANDINISTAS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO PUSH, ALTHOUGH AFTER THEY LEAVE POWER ON APRIL 25 IT WILL BE AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY.

LEONARD

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